

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor

Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

Kernan Energizes Lafayette Region with Workforce Development Grant

Indianapolis, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan today awarded \$226,800 in Energizing Indiana's Workforce funds to the Tecumseh Area Partnership Workforce Investment Board to offer new tools to area businesses.

Awarded through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Tecumseh Area Partnership Workforce Investment Board (WIB) represents Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Warren and White counties. It will use the funding to provide performance improvement mechanisms to businesses in the region, assist Ivy Tech-Lafayette in establishing a training program for radiology technicians and partner with area high schools to offer computer-based remediation programs.

"The Tecumseh Area Partnership understands that having a qualified, well-trained and highly skilled pool of workers is fundamental to our economic success," said Kernan. "That's why this program is so important. It helps to improve the skills of the workforce, which meets the current and future needs of employers. It's a winning situation for all parties, and one we are happy to be associated with."

Energizing Indiana's Workforce grants are one-time grants appropriated from federal funds. The grant is designed to encourage the state's WIBs to create stronger links between economic and workforce development. Specifically, the funds are used to support efforts to upgrade the skills of the Hoosier workforce in the four industry sectors: life sciences, advanced manufacturing, high-tech distribution and information technology.

"Thanks to the Energizing Indiana's Workforce initiative and the support provided by our local elected officials and economic development organizations, we now have substantial resources to invest in strengthening our regional talent pool of workers," stated Mr. Roger Feldhaus, WIB Director.

Governor Kernan added, "These grants not only support the goals of Energize Indiana, they also support the state's workforce development initiative, Indiana@Work. By providing this funding to the WIBs, we can work together to develop programs to support the needs of our workers and employers."

Indiana@Work is comprehensive workforce development plan, announced by the governor in his State-of-the-State address. The program combines the efforts of DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce in an effort to match jobseekers with companies that have openings. It also provides training funds to businesses, for potential employees who are facing a "skills gap" that could keep them from attaining higher-pay jobs. And, eventually, Indiana@Work will help workers develop "e-resumes" that they can carry with them throughout their careers.

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Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this, or any other DWD program, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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